

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-8. (Canceled).

9. (New) A process for enhancing the melt strength of polypropylene comprising the steps of:

-mixing 100 parts per weight (ppw) of the polypropylene with at least 0.1-8 ppw of an oligomer of maleimide or an oligomer of a maleimide derivative, in the absence of peroxide or in the presence of less than 0.01 ppw of peroxide;

-reacting said polypropylene and oligomer of maleimide or oligomer of a maleimide derivative at a temperature between 150° C and 300° C.

10. (New) The process according to claim 9 wherein the oligomer of maleimide or the oligomer of a maleimide derivative is prepared in situ by mixing the polypropylene with maleimide monomer or a derivative thereof and a base.

11. (New) The process according to claim 9 wherein the oligomer of a maleimide derivative is derived from biscitraconic acid.

12. (New) The process according to claim 10 wherein the maleimide derivative is derived from biscitraconic acid and the base is 1,4-diazabicyclo[2,2,2]octane.

13. (New) A composition, which is free from peroxide or contains less than 0.01 ppw of peroxide, comprising 100 ppw of polypropylene and 0.1-8 ppw of an oligomer of maleimide or an oligomer of a maleimide derivative, or a mixture of 0.1-8 ppw of a monomer of maleimide or a derivative thereof and a base.

14. (New) The composition of claim 13 wherein the maleimide derivative is derived from biscitraconic acid and the base is 1,4-diazabicyclo[2,2,2]octane.

15. (New) A polypropylene which is free from peroxide or contains less than 0.01 ppw of peroxide, obtainable from the composition of claim 13 with enhanced melt strength, which is at least 1.5 times higher than the melt strength of the corresponding non-modified polypropylene.

16. (New) A polypropylene which is free from peroxide or contains less than 0.01 ppw of peroxide, obtainable from the composition of claim 14 with enhanced melt strength, which is at least 1.5 times higher than the melt strength of the corresponding non-modified polypropylene.

17. (New) A method of making a foam, fiber, or sheet, comprising using the composition of claim 13.

18. (New) A method of making a foam, fiber, or sheet, comprising using the composition of claim 14.

19. (New) A method of making a foam, fiber, or sheet, comprising using the polypropylene of claim 15.